The Battle of Haldi Pass

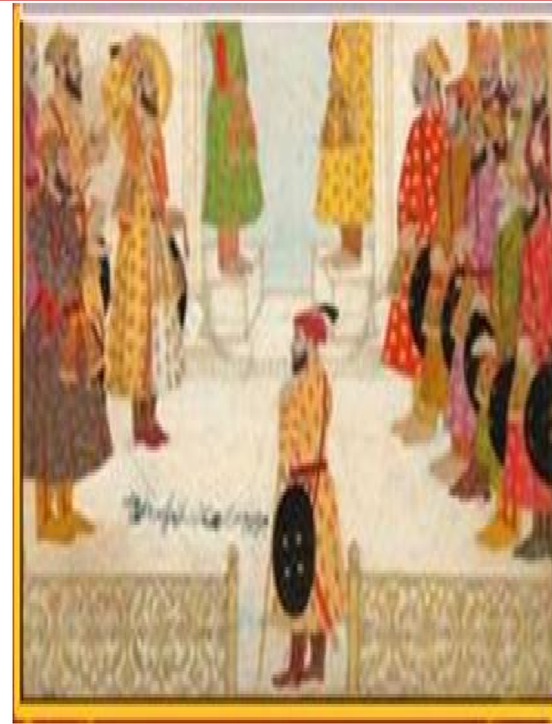
Part 1

₹ 50








THE BATTLE OF HALDI PASS

Wing Commander Shashikant Oak
Mo: 9881901049 Edn. Oct 2022.

Part 1

Please note: The spellings have been written as per Indian style to reduce influence of British pronunciations



MAHARANA PRATAP IS MOST REVERED IN RAJPUTANA. A BRAVE PATRIOT AND GENEROUS HINDU INDIAN KSHTRIYA

THE BATTLE OF HALDI PASS



- In the world, such a kind of elephant battle fought by 'very few against too many' has a special place...
- Historians have made many annotations on this campaign... ‘The battle was won yet lost’.
- The memory of the sacrifice of Chetak: Maharana Pratap's warhorse will remain fresh through legends and war stories.





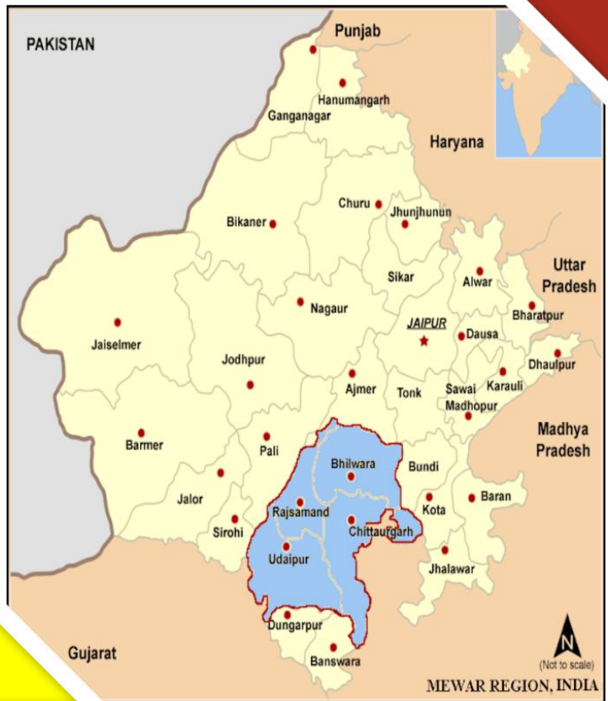


The Architect Of The Retired Army, Navy And Air Force



War Experts

Where is Mewad? How Haldi Ghati (Pass) looks like?





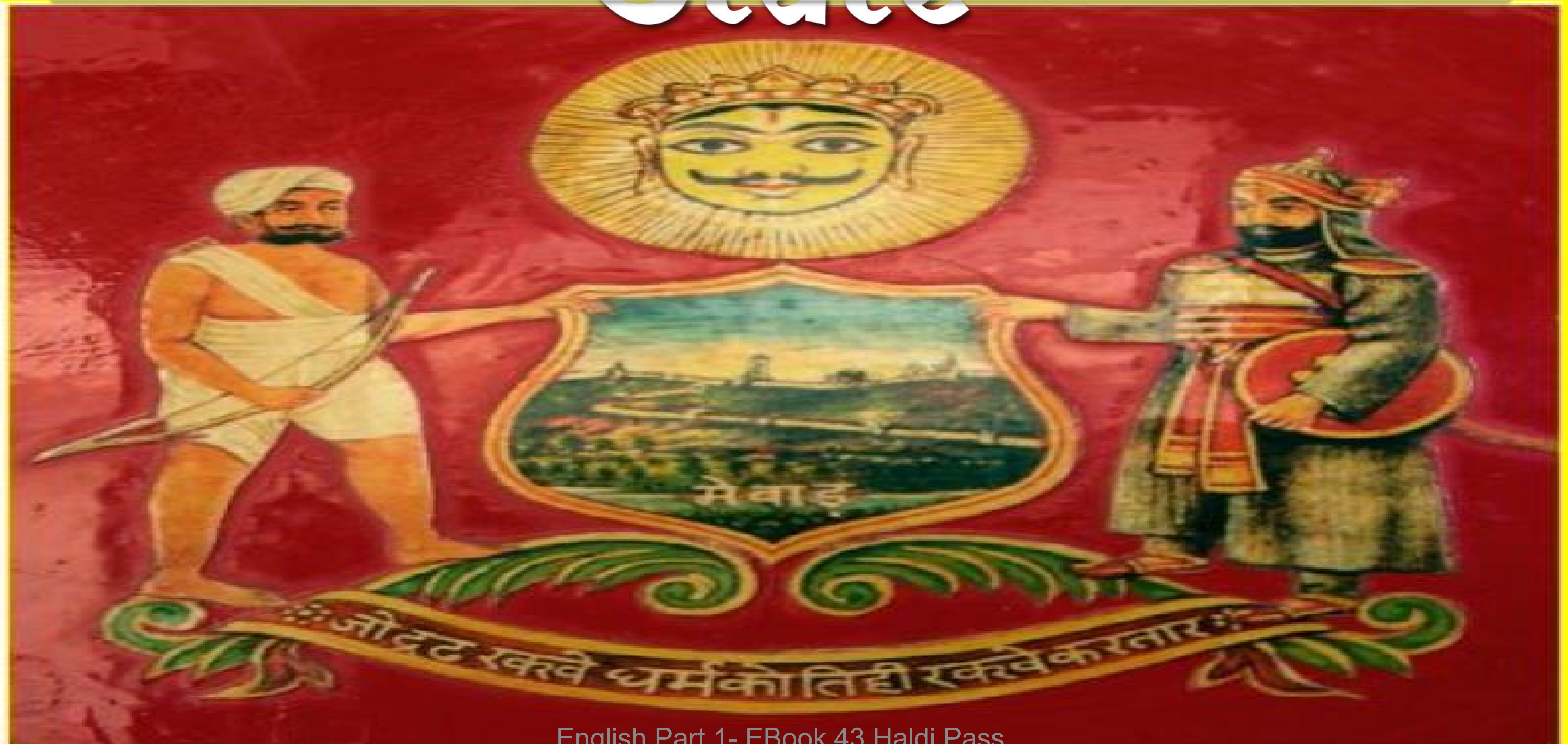
Bhagal

Actual narrow Pass of Haldi

Chetak Smarak H

Emblem of Mewad

Motto - Those who firmly defend Dharma; are protected by the divine power.



What Is The Purpose Of This Presentation?

- There is no intention to show what went wrong in Maharana Pratap's battle.
- The objective is to get a general idea of how the battles were fought?
- If today's military commanders get orders from a war-strategic view of this war,
- How will they critically analyse the various aspects of Military warfare? How will they plan for logistics movement? How will they adjust plans according to changing circumstances while achieving the goal of winning the war?
- The following research is based on the concept of how the plan was implemented given the time constraints.

Is It theClaim That "The War Took Place As Presented Here"?

- **This fight is based on creative freedom. There is no claim that the fight actually took place that way.**
- **The descriptions of battles recognised and widespread on the basis of facts and evidence are not available in the historical accounts.**
- **Therefore, events are established based on information that is currently being identified.**
- **In such a situation, this scenario is presented keeping in view the life events of those individuals, courage, past and future displayed bravery, military management skills and use of available resources and weapons.**

Disclaimer

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- There is no intention to abuse them.
- However, if there is a copyright infringement for any reason,
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What Was The Political Situation Before The Haldi Pass Campaign?

- In answer to this question, Army officials say -
- 1. We are not historians. But from the general information, it can be said that ...
- 2. King Akbar (age 32) wanted to bring the Mewad kingdom under the Mughal rule. The previous four attempts at peace talks had failed.
- 3. In the year 1576, Prince - Kunwar Man Sinh of Amer (Jaipur) state (Age 27) led the expedition.
- 4. As per the plan, Maharana Pratap (37) was to be captured or killed and his Gogunda and Kumbhalgad fort be taken over. Akbar wanted to end the dominance of Rajputs. And earn tax revenue on the trade route to the Mughal power.



What Was The Political Sitution Before the Haldi Pass Campaign?

- 5. Rana Pratap was wounded in the battle, but could not be captured. Thus, the campaign on Akbar's side failed. Because of this, Man Sinh was not allowed to attend Darbar for the next 2 years!
- 6. Elephants were used as war tanks. Chetak's horse was injured by an elephant and Rana Pratap had to be dispersed in the mountain pass of Haldi Pass (Ghati).
- 7. Afterwards the demise of Maharana Pratap in 1597, a peace treaty was signed between the Mewad kingdom and the Mughals in 1615. The women of the Mewad dynasty will not be converted. Mansab of Five Thousand troops will be honoured. But the Mewad rulers will not attend the court, etc. were some clauses of the agreement.



Raja Akbar and Kwr. Man Sinh Kachhwa Deliberations



- **Akbar used to visit Ajmer every year to offer Flower tribute at the dargah of Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti. In 1575, Kwr. Man Singh was called.**
- **Talks with Maharana Pratap failed four times. It was decided to wage war on Mewad and bring it under the permanent control of the Mughals. It was decided to remove the thorn of Maharana Pratap's kingdom.**
- **It was decided that Kwr. Man Singh of the Kachhwa clan would gather 6,000 armies of his Rajput from Amber and 10,000 of Mughal soldiers from Fatepur at Mandalgadh.**
- **Kwr. Man Singh was given the leadership of the army.**
- **Kwr. Man Singh was to be honoured by being given a high position in Akbar's court after winning the battle.**



How Did King Akbar Participate In The Campaign? Part 1

- **Akbar made the plan and handed over the completion to Kunwar Man Sinh. He is...**
- **1. The battle is to be fought in a narrow, flat area on the banks of the Banas River near Haldi Pass.**
- **2. The Mugal army would first use artillery, then elephants and cavalry would be brought down.**
- **3. To force the army of Mewad to surrender by encircling it from all sides.**
- **4. We will close the return road to Gogunda Fort and Kumbhalgadh and capture them later.**



How Did King Akbar Participate In The Campaign? Part 2

- 5. Kwr. Man Sinh was chosen by Raja Akbar as the army chief for this campaign. The Mugal army under different chieftains was deployed to strengthen Kwr. Man Sinh. The arrangements were made to keep an eye on Kwr. Man Sinh.
- 6. If the fight leans towards Rana Pratap, then the commander of the Mugal army should take over and send news through secret agents.
- 7. During the war, if Kwr. Man Sinh gets captured or killed, in that case, the army would be led by Mugal chiefs.

Mewad State

- Pratap Singh
- Charan Jaisa Singh
- Charan Kaisa Singh
- Dodia Bhim Singh
- Ramdas Rathor
- Ram Sah Tanwar
- Hakim Khan Sur
- Bhama Shah
- Tarachand
- Bida Jhala
- Rao Poonja

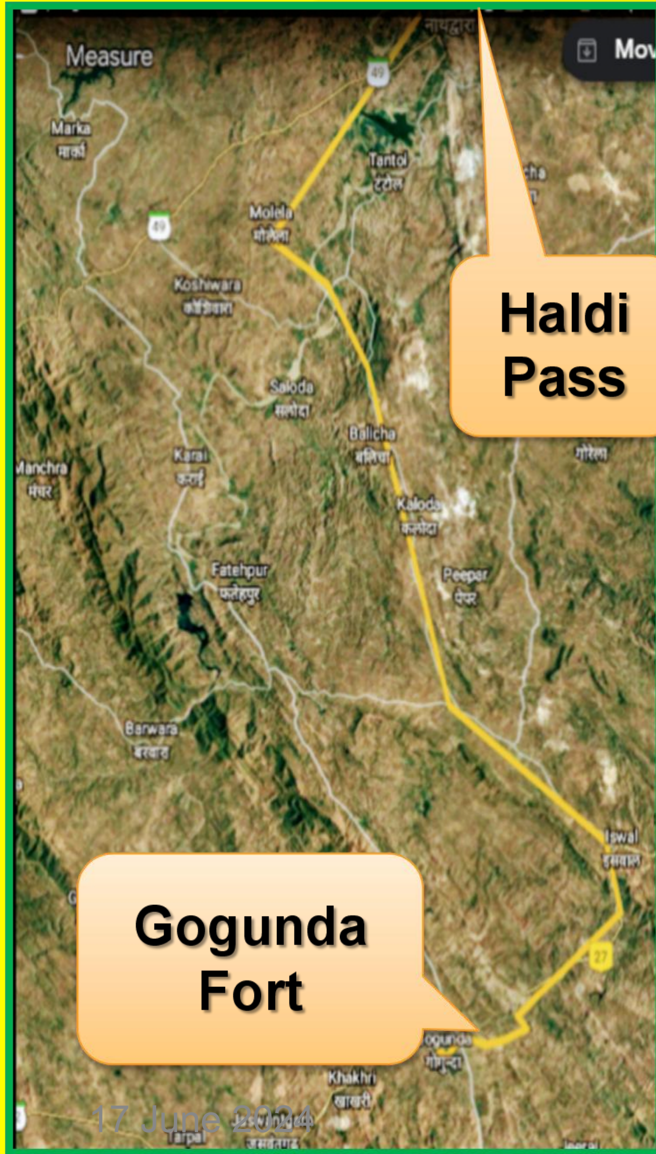
Mugal Empire

- Man Singh I
- Sayyed Ahmad Khan Barha
- Sayyid Hashim Barha
- Jagannath Kachhwa
- Ghias-ud-din Ali Asaf Khan
- Madho Singh Kachhwa
- Mulla Qazi Khan
- Rao Lunkaran
- Mihtar Khan

Commanders From Both Sides



What Were Kwr. Man Sinh's Objectives of The War?



- 1. To present Rana Pratap live before Raja Akbar. If not, kill him personally.
- 2. To stop the hostility towards the chief chieftains fighting on the side of Rana Pratap immediately.
- 3.To allow them to join the Mugal army voluntarily.
- 4. To take possession of the Gogunda Fort and gain authority over it.
- 5. To enhance high prestige and honour in Raja Akbar's court.



Mugal Army Strategy Part 1

- 1. Kwr. Man Sinh's war strategy was, to reach the hill of Molela on the Mewad state border. To cross the banks of the Banas River.
- 2. To cross the Haldi Pass to reach Gogunda fort.
- 3. To keep vigil for the possible attack on Mandalgadh with Rana Pratap's Mewad army.
- 4. A flat battlefield of Khamnaur on the banks of the Banas river is suited for Mugal forces than in the maze of mountains.
- 5. To avoid getting trapped in Haldi Pass. Rana Pratap will try to stop the Mughal forces on the hilly track to avoid reaching Gogunda Fort without fighting.
- 6. Kwr. Man Sinh will control the proceedings in center, to remain in touch with all flanks. He will order the moves of troops as per the requirement of the battle.



Mugal Army Strategy Part 2

- 7. The initial attack of the arrows of Bhil Bowmen battalions, will be repelled by the deployed Mugal Artillery to intimidate them.
- 8. Kwr. Man Sinh to monitor the activities taking place on different fronts and bring elephant force into the war zone to clinch the victory.
- 9. When Rana Pratap appears on the battlefield, Kwr. Man Sinh to take rearguard action to avoid direct confrontation.



Mugal Army Strategy Part 3

- 10. To attract Rana Pratap's attention, the archery platoon continues to throw spears from a distance. The time lag for the exchange or to recoup arrows and spears from the sides to be used to climb tops. They should capture Rana Pratap from a distance by injuring him.
- 11. If a Mughal soldier gets injured by an enemy's arrow, then to avoid being killed, he will have to put down the weapon and go for shelter.
- 12. Injured horses and riders have to be removed from the horse and taken to a safe place. Separate helper units will be deployed for other tasks.
- 13. If the Mugal army faces defeat, then the elephants' force has to be kept ready for the battlefield. The signal for the arrival of elephants by playing the drums, trumpets, flag bearers and other war instruments will be given. Soldiers will be ordered to clear the battlefield.



Mugal Army Strategy Part 4

- 14. When elephant force enters the field, Mugal soldiers should not be trampled upon. They have to go out of reach of an ivory-mounted sword.
- 15. Elephants are controlled by Mahavat alongside the enemy army. The angry elephants don't listen even to their own Mahavat.
- 16. The elephants have to be protected by their soldiers by making a circle around them.
- 17. Soldiers on horseback with swords would be confronted by a company of command and arrow riders. They should be kept away to avoid direct confrontation with enemy elephants.



Mugal Army Strategy Part 5

- **18. Enemy soldiers will have to be harassed from afar, identifying themselves with surrounding bushes and hills, and climbing places to hide.**
- **19. If it is impossible to escape, then soldiers have to keep fighting from where they are. If caught, they will try to escape. When the horses are distracted by something, the riders fall down. Be careful not to get trampled. Don't run away in front of the animals.**
- **20. Put down the weapon to avoid death. With arms extended, surrender. Try asking for help from other instruments or flags by shouting out loud, and playing rumblings. Always pay attention to warnings coming out of anywhere. Keep shouting war cries aloud.**
- **21. If the soldier in front is not a Muslim in uniform, give a war slogan to identify who is the foe, and the friend. Call the names of your chiefs. Otherwise, avoid the possibility of being killed by the soldier fighting on your side.**



What Was The War Strategy of The Mewad Army? Part 1

- **1.The Mugal army would have to stop any attempt to cross the Banas River and enter the kingdom of Mewad.**
- **2.Do not allow Mugals to capture Gogunda Fort. Therefore, stopping them on the narrow road of Haldi pass, closing them on both sides and forcing them to cross.**
- **3.Forcing the retreating Mugal army to surrender.**
- **4.By defeating Kwr. Man Sinh in the war, completely shattering the dream of joining Mewad state to Mugal power.**



What Was The War Strategy of The Mewad Army? Part 2

- 5. Seeing the outcome of the war, the elephants would be thrown into the battle to disperse the Mugal army.
- 6. The Maharana would oversee and instruct the battle with his elephant.
- 7. To destroy the artillery and ammunition used in the Mugal army.
- 8.To help keep the morale of the fighting soldiers high by prioritizing flag keeper, light, and weapon delivery squads.
- 9. Kwr. Man Sinh and his chieftains are forced to agree to their demands and conditions.



What Was The War Strategy of The Mewad Army? Part 3

- 10.The royal family, elders, money treasury, and supply of food grains should be taken safely to Kumbhalgarh.
- 11. The army should be assembled in the hills of Khamnaur.
- 12. The artillery does not allow the Mugal army to come forward by staying close to the Banas River.
- 13. The archers of the Bhil army, hiding in different dunes of the hills, will have to prepare bundles of arrows burning with oil and many small and big length arrows immersed in poisonous water. Their job is to drive away from the Mugals by creating a ruckus.
- 14.The cavalry is to encircle the Mugal army and cut off their supply of weapons and logistics. The reversal of the infantry under the cover of artillery is to continue the attack on the Mugals.



Mewad Forces Plan For Future Fights

- Mewad was an alone state, not surrendered to the Mugal regime.
- Many Rajput Sardars used to switch loyalties as per their advantage.
- Some elderly Sardars' forces who made Prince Pratap a King in 1572 and Punja Bhil battalions were loyal to Maharana.
- His resources were limited. His father Rana Uday Sinh was deprived of his forts. Thus, for Maharana, it was a do or die situation.

Kwr. Man Sinh Consults Horoscopic Muhurt

- **Kwr. Man Sinh started his mission on 3rd Apr 1576 Vaishakh Krishna Dashami, Saturday, on Sarvartha Siddhi Yoga, from Fort Amber Presently known as Jaipur Fort. On traditionally auspicious day**



10, Vaishakha
Krishna Paksha, Dashami
1633 Tarana, Vikrama Samvata
Jaipur, India

03
April 1576
Saturday

Sarvartha Siddhi Yoga, Bhadra

- **Troops consisted of foot soldier of around 3,000 and horse-riding 1000 soldiers. With supporting staff, war animals like Elephants, Horses, Load bearing animals camels, asses etc.**

Kwr. Man Sinh Troops Proceeds From Amer Fort to Tonk



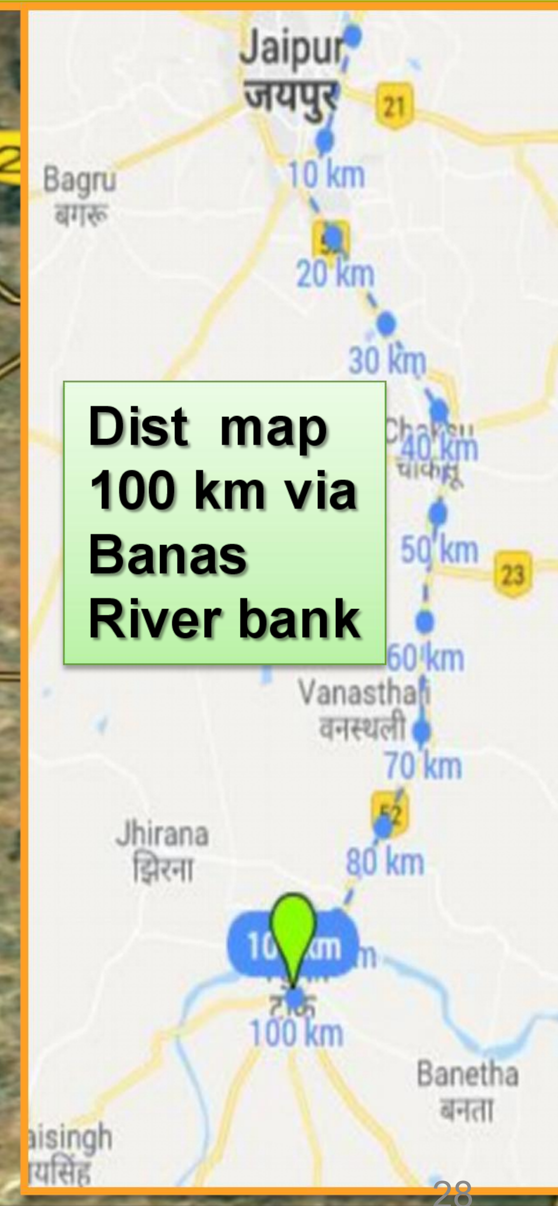
Kwr. Man Sinh came out on elephants from Amber Fort towards Mandalgad



Elephant convoy going through the river. Representative image

Jaipur to Tonk Dis. 100 Km

Jaipur
जयपुर
Click & hold to compare
21
Bagru
बगरू
52
Chaksu
चाकसू
Phagi
फागी
23
Vanasthali
वनस्थली
52
Jhirana
झिरना
Tonk



Kwr. Man Sinh Moves Tonk to Mandalgad 140 km

Dist map 140 km via Banas River bank

Tonk - Bambor

Mandalgadh

73 h
364 km

Bambor Gate

Jahazpur

Piplund

Moi

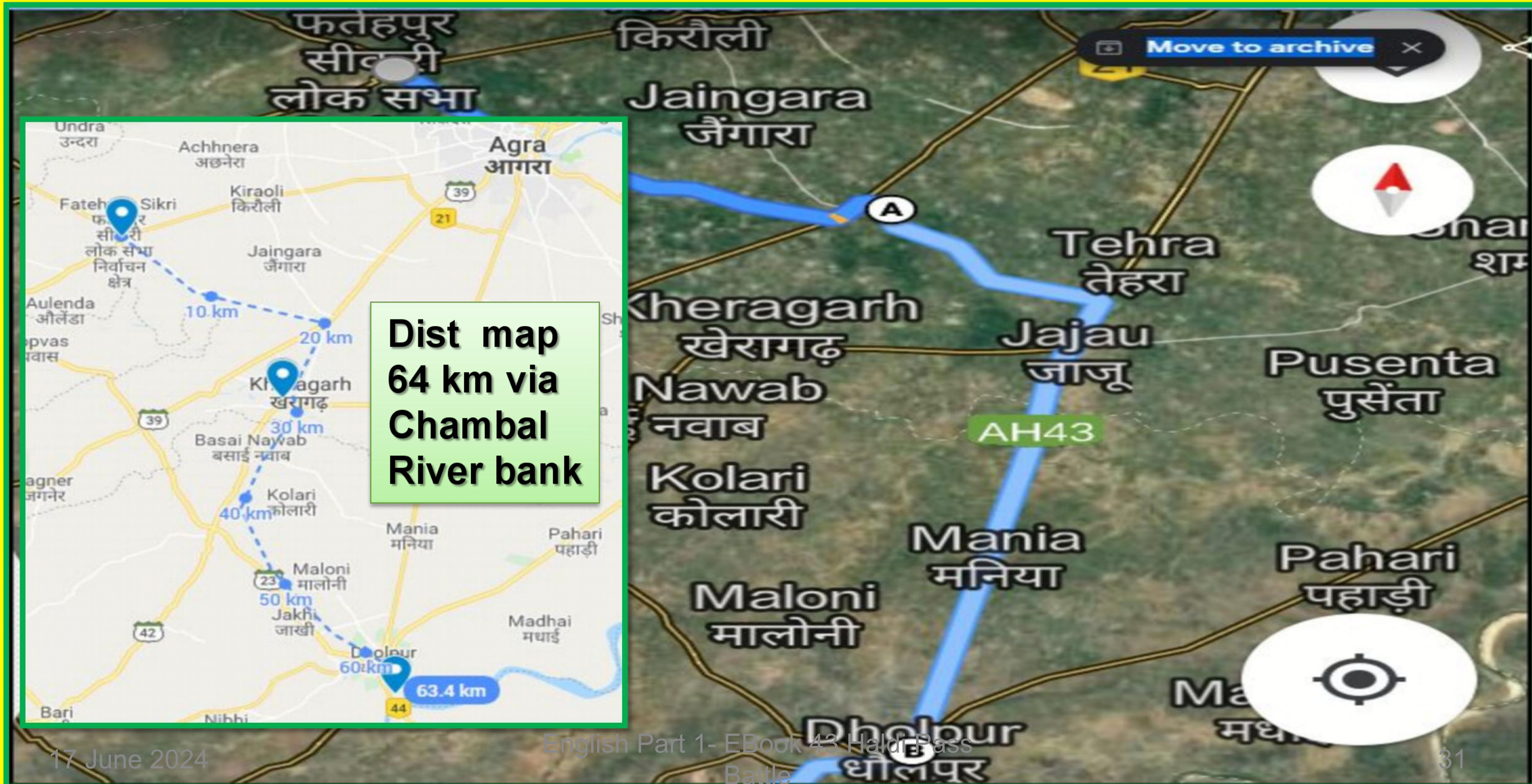
Mandalgarh Fort

King Akbar's Mugal Force Assembled At Fatepur

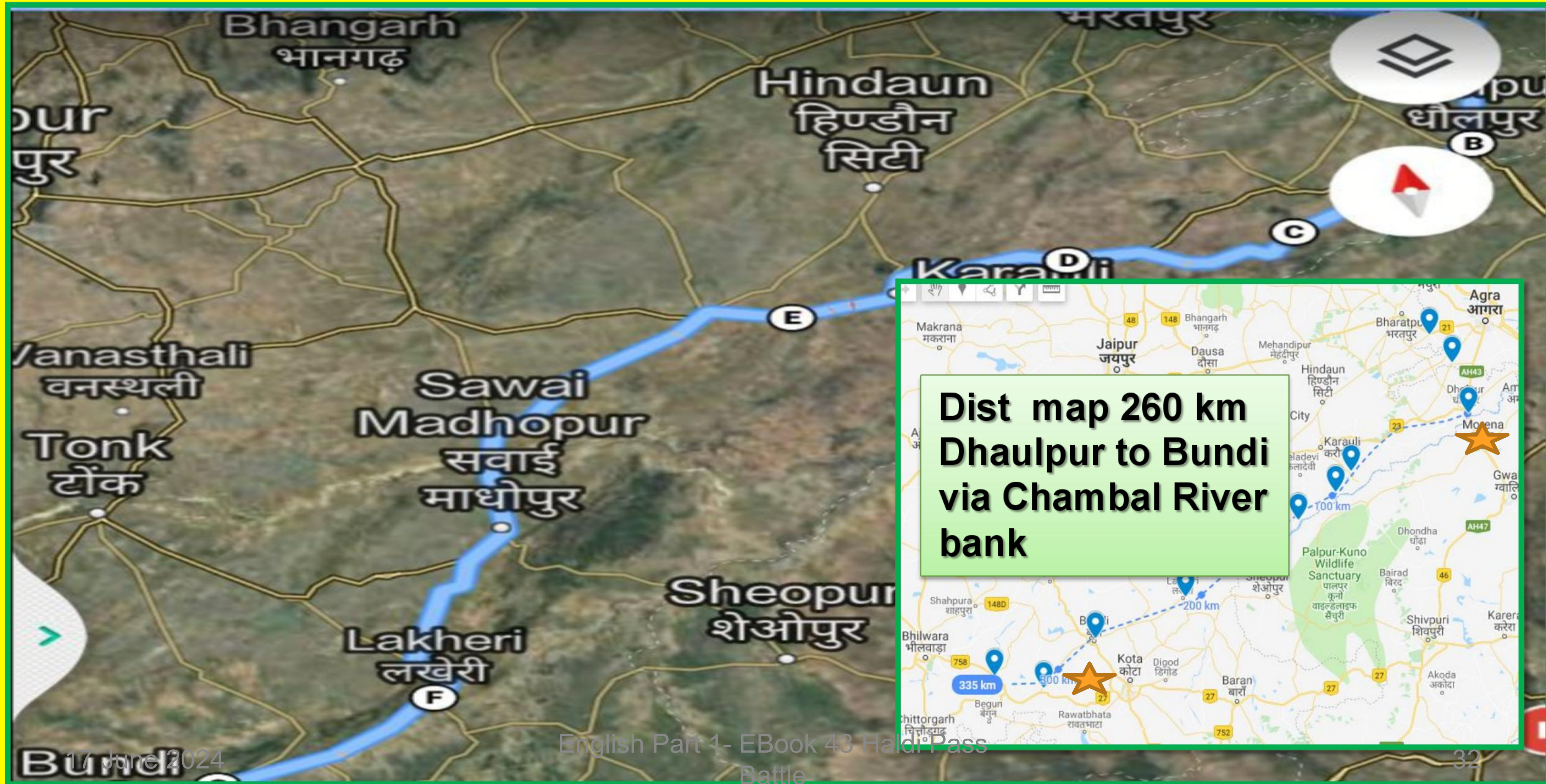


Buland (Massive) - Gate Offices

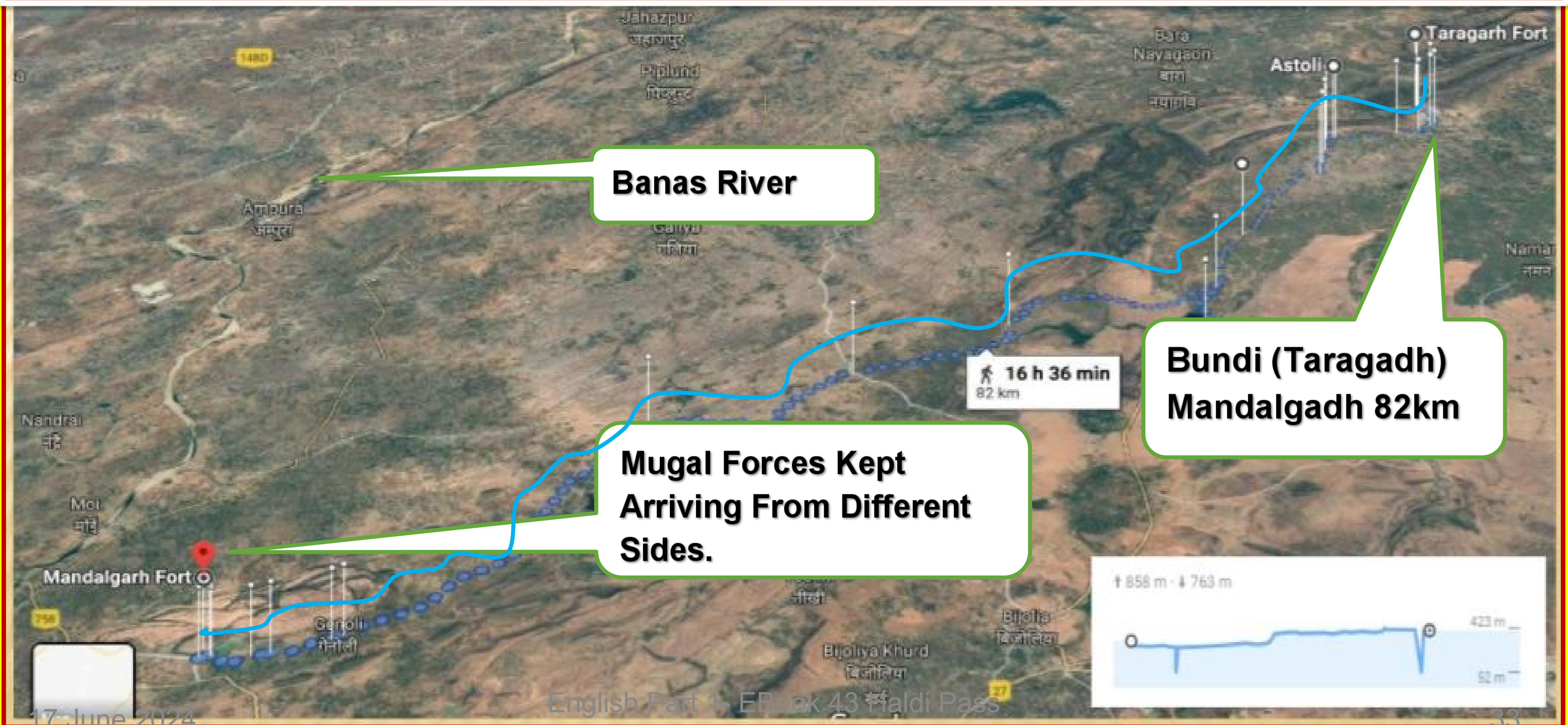
Mugal Forces Moved From Fatepur To Dhaulpur 64 Km



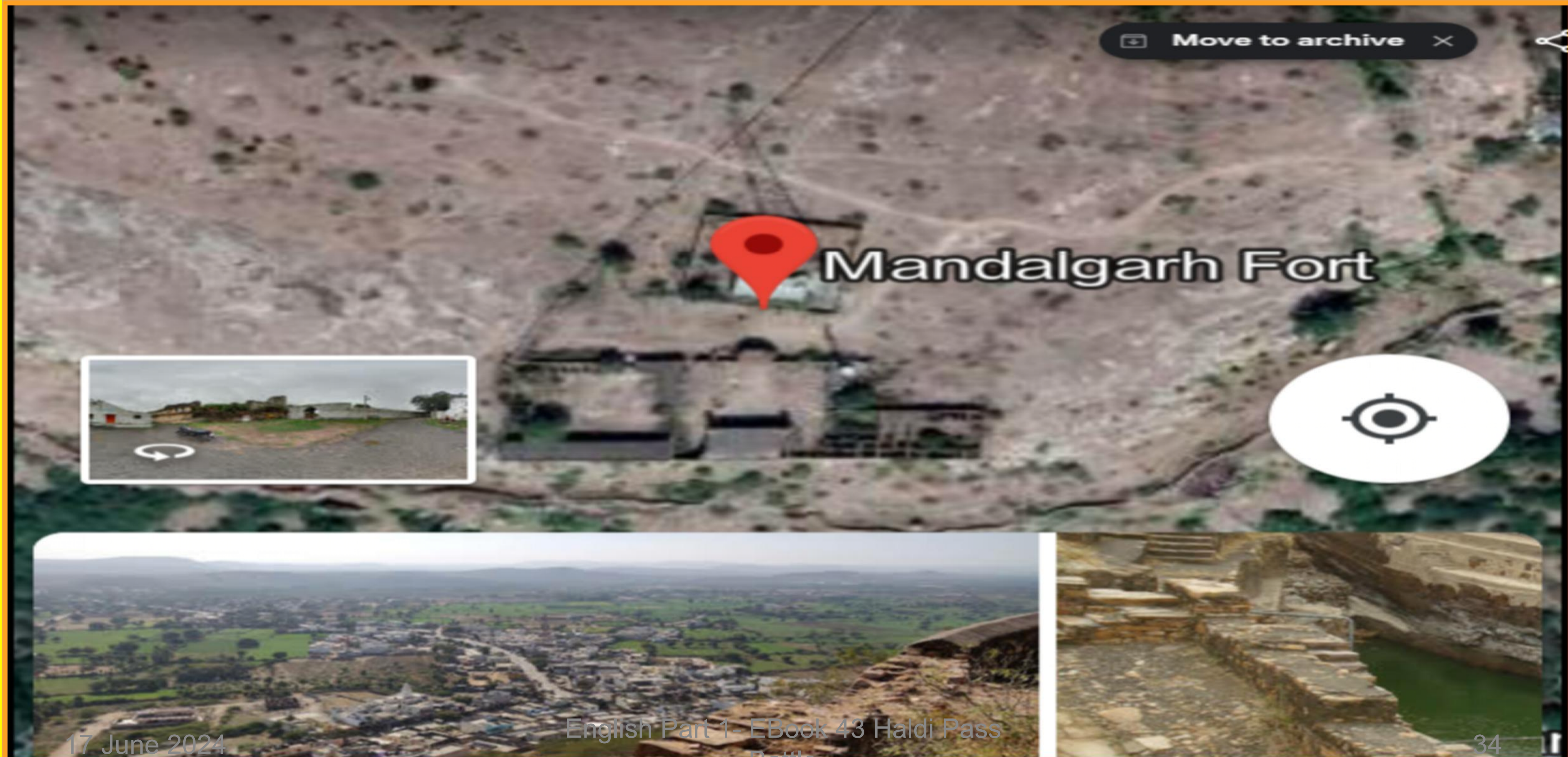
Mughal Forces From Dhaulpur – Bundi 260 Km



The Mugal Army Crossed The Hills From Bundi And Kept Coming To Mandalgarh.



Both The Troops Assembled At Mandalgadh



Mugal Forces Arrive At Molela Hilltop



Around The Molela Hill
Position Of Troops

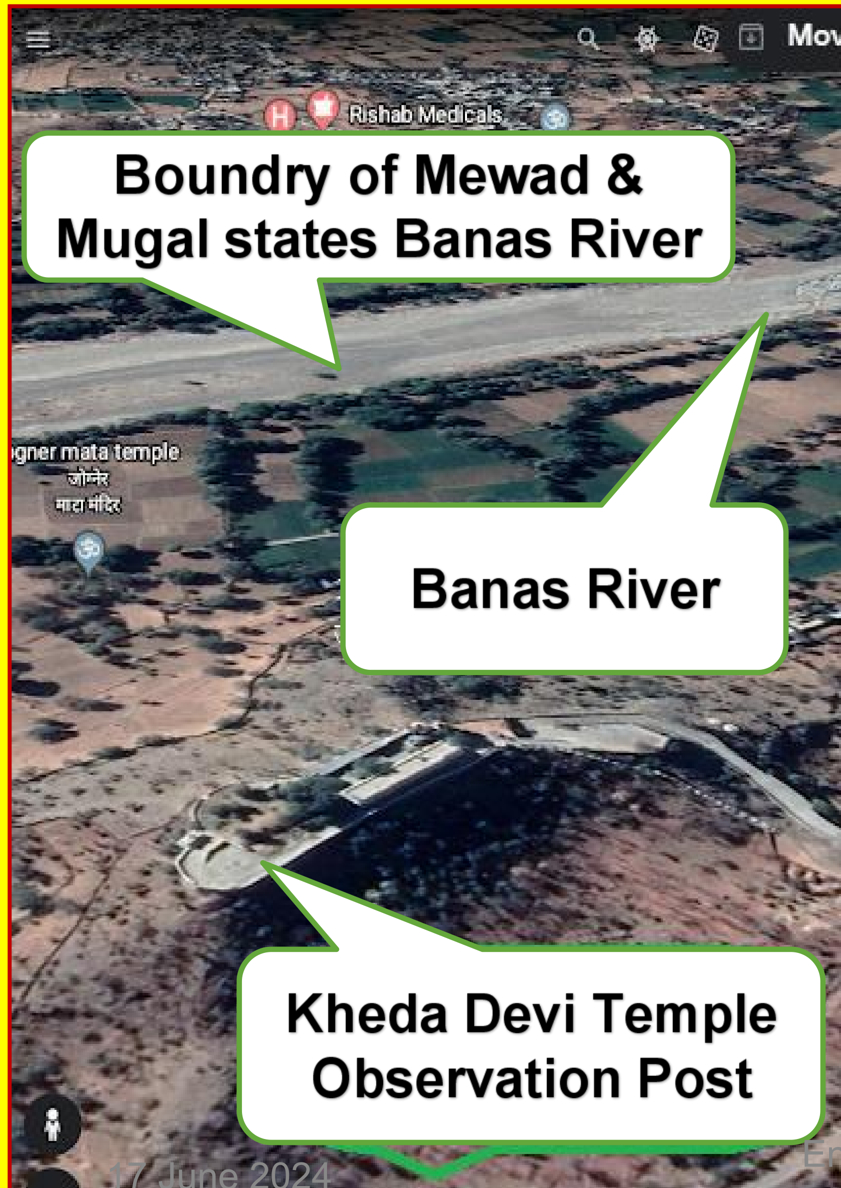
Banas Riverbed

From 10th Jun the troops were awaiting further instructions

Kheda Devi Temple Observation Post

Battle hard wares, armoury and other heavy materials and Senior Commanders Tents were parked behind Hill.

Troops Settle Behind Hill Hideout



- On reaching Molela Hilltop, Kwr. Man Sinh thought that they are ready to cross Banas river boundary of Mewad kingdom of at the time.
- Based on Intelligence inputs Maharana Pratap will try to stop Mugals so that they don't make inroads without a fight.
- Mugal Forces were scattered to overcome three layers of attacks. Left, right and centre. They were interlinked to strengthen the weak or battered forces.
- To counter initial attack arrows from Bhil forces, they had put artillery to scare them.



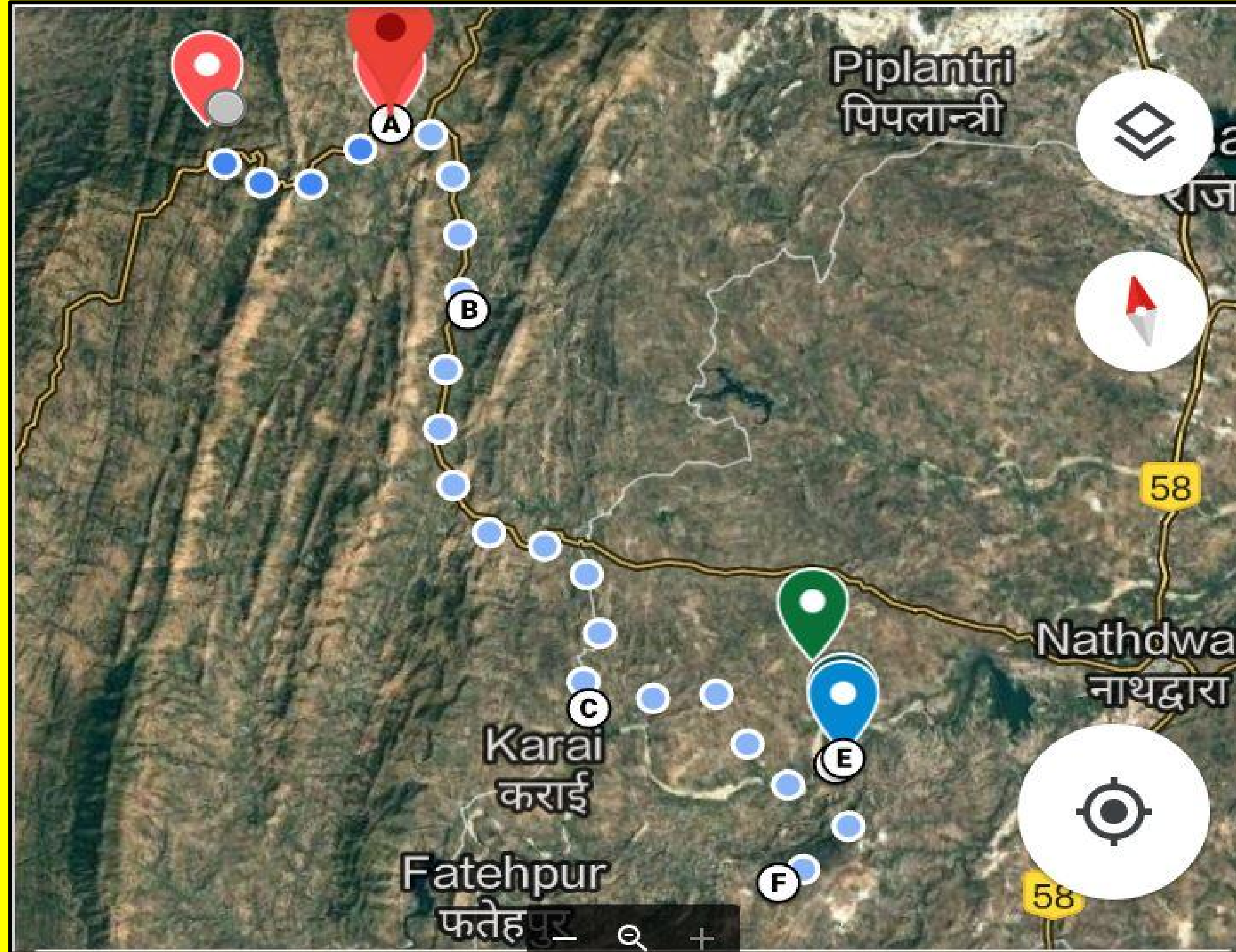
Molela Hill Now Mother Kheda Temple

Mewad Army Came Out From Gogunda Fort To Kumbhalgarh

- Only a few soldiers left at Gogunda Fort.
- All - the families of King Pratap and his other chieftains, war literature, elephants, horses, camels and mules etc.
- Everyone was ordered to go to Kumhal Gadh.
- Kumbhalgarh was such a fort that could easily be saved.



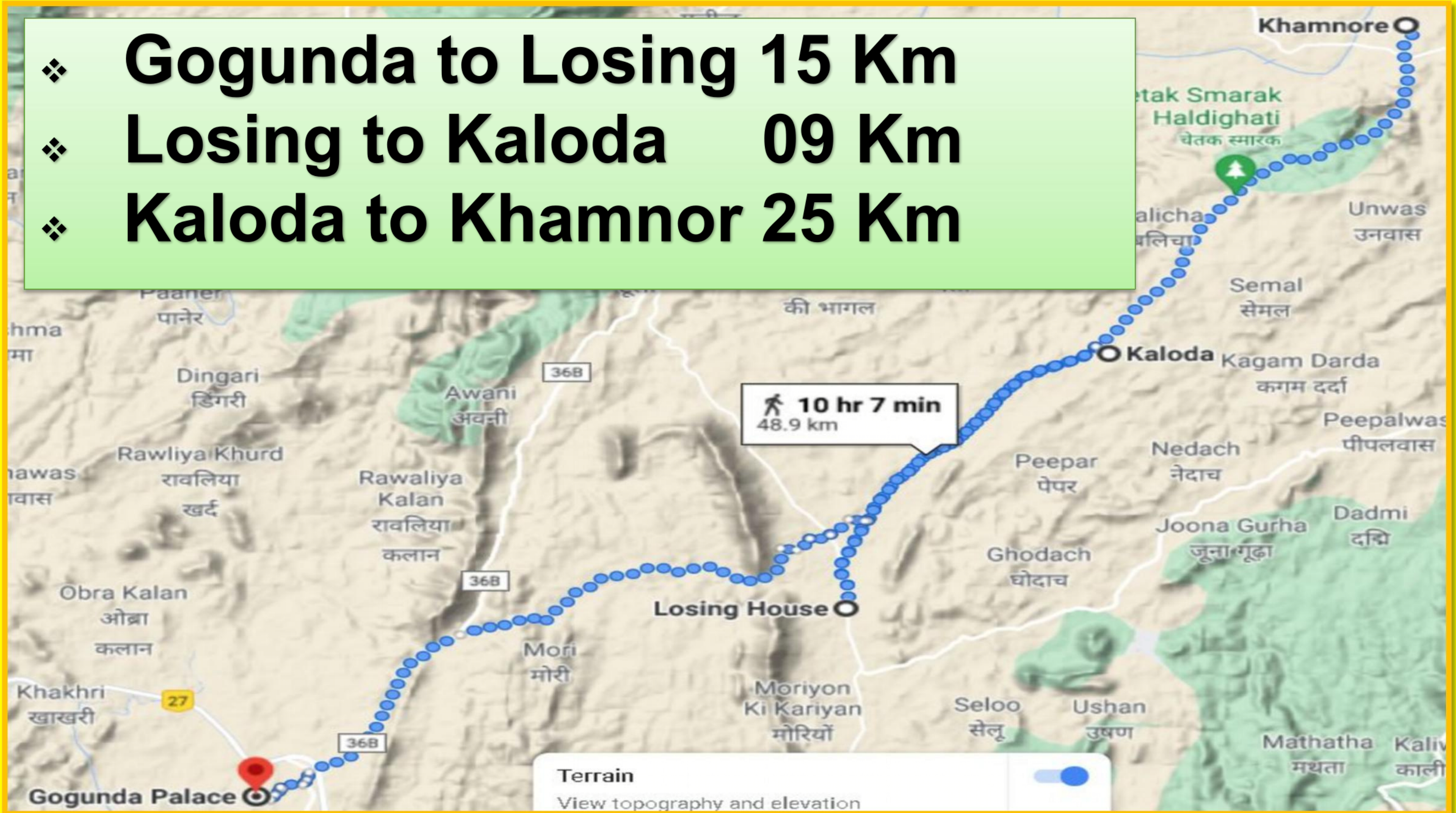
Maharana Pratap's Troops Gathering At Kumbhalgarh Fort



Legend For Movements

❖ Kumhalgad to Khamnor	km
❖ A – Majhera	8
❖ B – Morcha	8
❖ C – Koshiwara	20
❖ D – Malida	4
❖ E – To Khamnor	7
❖ F -- Battle ground Khamnor	3
❖ Total km =	50

Assembly Of Mewad Forces



Maharana Pratap's Army March - from Gogunda - Losing - Khamnor - 35 Km



Prominent Warriors Who Fought In The Vanguard Of Maharana Pratap's Army At The Battle Of Haldi ghati.

Central Office The Palace, Udaipur

Photo Courtesy And Copyright: Maharana Mewad Foundation, Central Office, The Palace, Udaipur.



Review Of Battle Of Haldi Ghati 1

- Up till now, we have seen how the military preparation and movement of Mugal troops reached the border town of Molela in early June 1576.
- It had a hilltop view of Banas river and the surrounding areas could be manoeuvred completely.
- There was a headcount for troops to rearrange and get ready for ensued battle.
- Pre-monsoon showers were expected. The sultry weather made the troops anxious for an early start of the anticipated fight.
- The troops' movement of Mewad forces and the actual battle will be presented in Part 2.

End Of Part 1